The Ghost Touch

an egoist critique of ghosting by Warlock Lumpen

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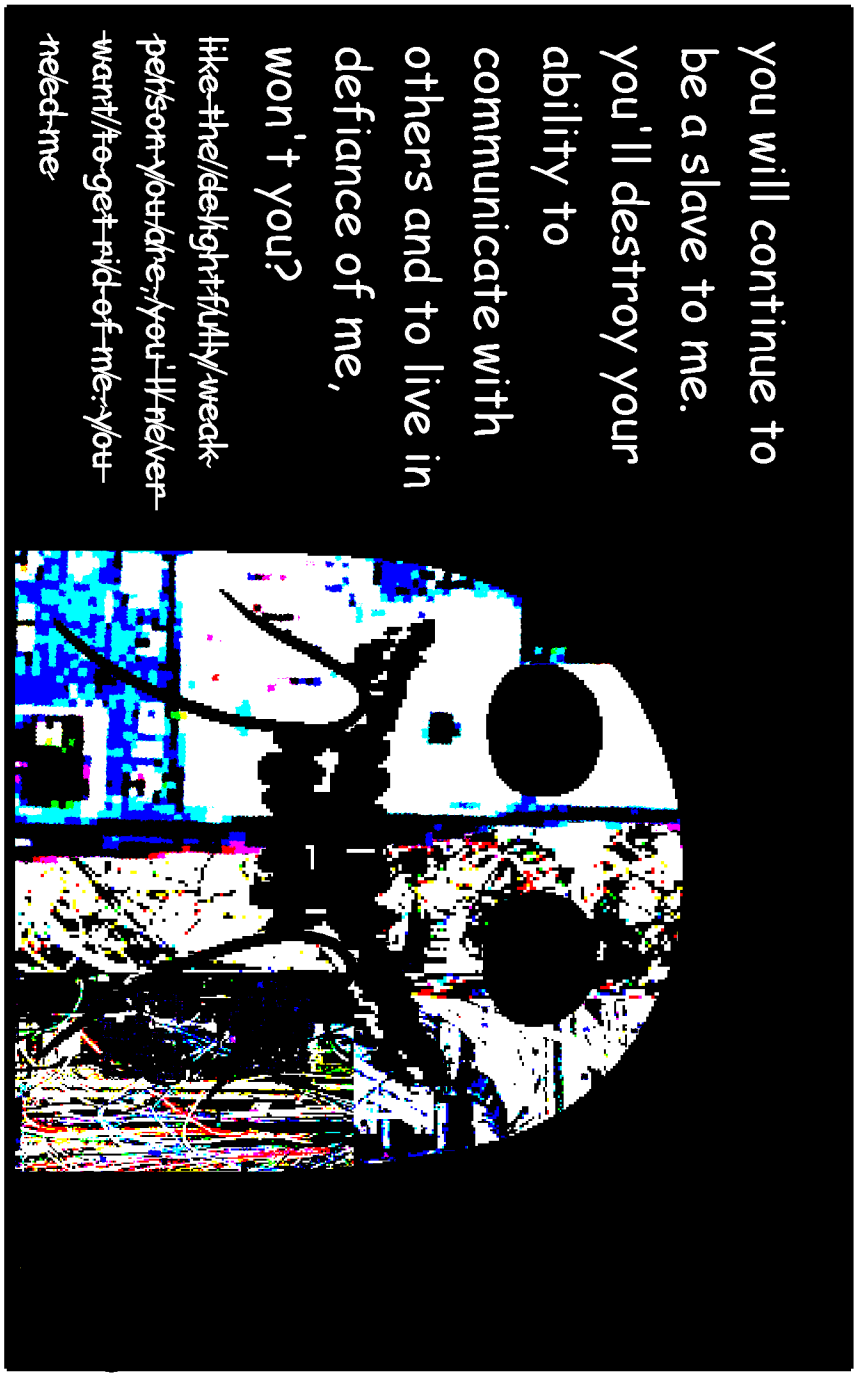


I've noticed a really disappointing trend in these contemporary times, that being the trend of ghosting. Now I am aware that falling out of someone's life with no notice is not new. It's been happening for as long as, uh, people have been talking to each other I suppose. However ghosting as we refer to it is a new phenomenon, and a really pathetic one at that.

Those of you who are younger will know exactly what it is I'm referring to, but older folks might benefit from knowing what ghosting is. Ghosting is, simply put, the act of abruptly ending communication with another person.

Now there's already plenty of conversation about what the intricacies of what qualifies ghosting and what does not. Given that it first started to be called this in the crux of the Information Age, I'd say that it is a phenomenon that emerged almost entirely because of electronic communications. The perceived comfort of the phone screen makes some people act really brave, really brave and really stupid.

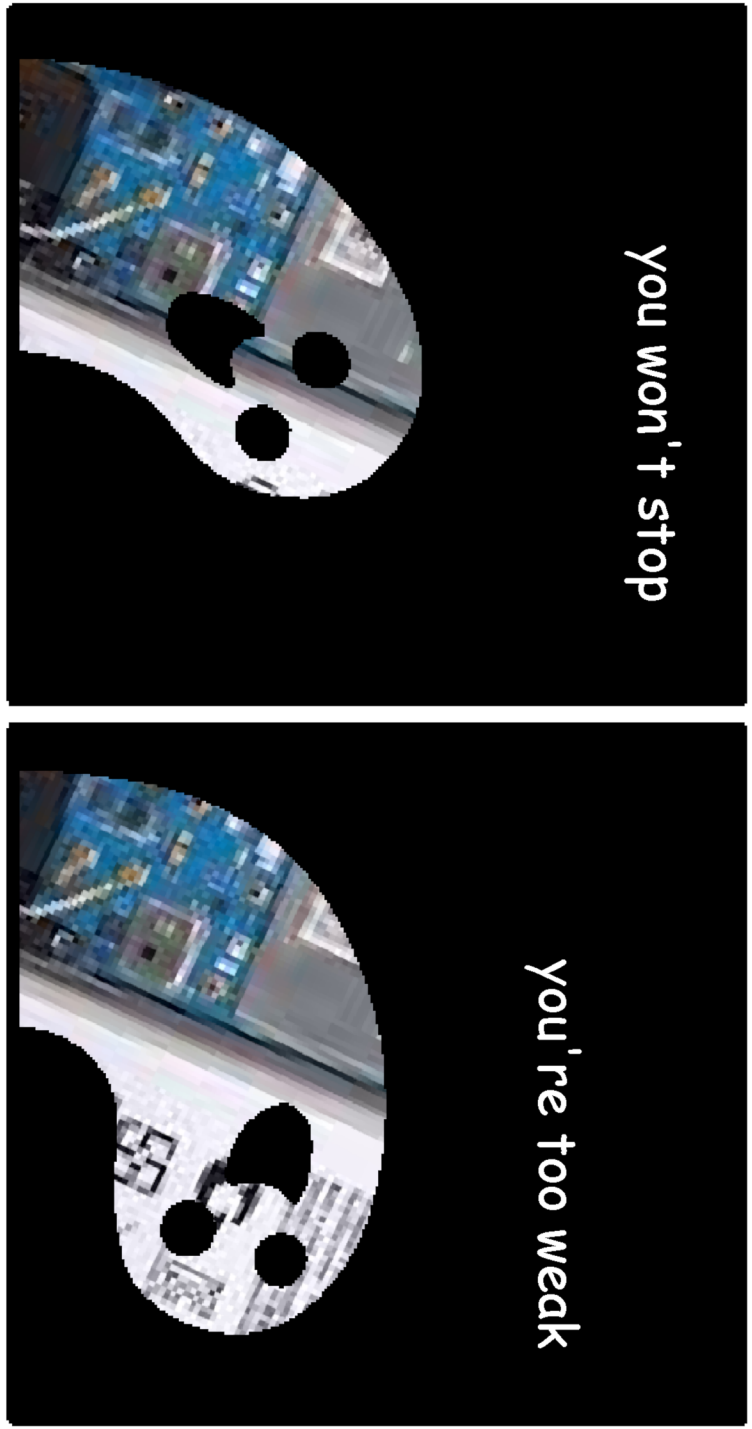
Even more alarming is that this seems to be a behavior even among anarchists. Ghosting seems counterproductive to the relationship goals of anarchists (especially those who openly practice relationship anarchy) to me, when much literature on RA states that "radical relationships must have conversation and communication at the heart."

It seems like a complete bastardization of such a suggestion.

Those who grew up with a magic mirror whispering into their heart everything they want to hear find it easy to do this. And why should they not? The mirror tells them that it's beneficial to them, it tells them that it gives them advice for their own interest. I doubt this. I refute the idea that ghosting is an empowering act, I suggest that ghosting is one of the most self-deprecating things you can do in your interactions with other individuals.

I'm not going to go into a whole spiel about how ghosting is "evil" or how it lacks "compassion" like I've seen much of the dialogue surrounding it happen because frankly, I don't give a shit about any of that talk. These are nothing arguments to my egoistic ass, and frankly they just convince the ghoster to tunnel further into the behavior because they often do believe they are acting in their self-interest.

No, I will say this instead: the ghoster is one who weeps. The one who ghosts another, they are so troubled by the conditioning of atomized digital age life that they genuinely feel that attempting to vanish without training their confidence is beneficial to them! They lack the self-confidence to tell others how they feel without the fear of



judgment. In essence, they care too much about what others think of them. What a joke!

I find ghosting to be a rather cowardly act, I find it to be self-defeating and renders one comfortable with not taking risks. It is a behavior rooted in the submission to fear, and like all actions which do this, it is the mind-killer. The killer of the spirit, this is. Those who choose to fuck with themselves like this are an active participant in their own psychic death, I believe. I have to agree with Apio Ludd here on this.

"These boundaries are limits an individual puts on her own free activity, ways of policing himself and others, because she is afraid, because he feels that he is too weak for certain encounters, and that she and others should accept such weakness rather than challenging it and seeking to overcome it. ... Boundaries, conceived as strict borders that people are to defend and respect, are ways of avoiding such conflict, ways of cowering back from the real, practical meaning of freedom as self-ownership and self-creation."

Boundaries, Apio Ludd

Ghosting is the zenith of these bullshit "self-help" ideas in the modern age. It is a representation and internalization of liberalism that claims to prescribe to you advice that is in your own self-interest. I fail to see how not taking risks, how not having uncomfortable conversations, how avoiding conflict, does anything except

increase your own ineptitude and make your life invariably worse.

Now a word of advice to those who have been ghosted:

If you've been ghosted, live your life. Keep going even when it's hard, even if for yourself alone. Ghosting almost always says more about the ghoster's inability to foster real connections with the world around them than it does about you. But this does not mean that you had no part to play; this is a relation between two individuals after all.

Don't succumb to self-hatred, reflect! Reflect as well as you can, reflect on why you could have been ghosted and communicate with yourself in a way that you were deprived of by the person in question. Self-reflection is always a worthwhile activity, I'm in a near-constant state of that myself.

Of course this critique is not without nuance. I don't see any issue with ghosting someone who is causing harm to you. Someone who is abusing you, who has raped you, etc has shown you that their interaction is not worth your time. Sometimes that truly is the best thing you can do for yourself. I, of course, am not talking about these situations with the text above.

But I ask you, the reader of this pamphlet, are you really so afraid to tell that person you went on one date with that you're not interested? Are you that afraid to tell your friend that they upset you? Are you yourself, or are you a vessel for the image of fear?

Would you rather be a ghoster who runs away from conflict or someone that can dish out rejection and jumps into challenge with gusto? The choice is yours really, but I offered my two cents.

I know I'll be fine, even if my willingness towards confrontation leaves me a loner in polite society ha! I'll keep breaking down the boundaries within myself and my interactions with other individuals. I'll keep brandishing the hand cannon of my diabolic heretical desires and blowing away all those bullshit phantoms and egregores that try to stand in my way. But for the rest of you, I'd prefer you don't join those who will be utterly cooked.